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Reports from Panama—Inspection of vessel—Mortality.

Assistant Surgeon Pierce reports, May 2, as follows:

During the week ended May 1, 1904, one vessel cleared for San Francisco, having on board officers and crew 60, cabin passengers 15, steerage passengers 20, total 95; all well.

During the week there were 20 deaths from the following causes:

Cancer	1	Tuberculosis	1
Dropsy	1	Pneumonia	3
Debility	1	Parturition	1
Dysentery	1	Phthisis	3
Fever	3	Stillborn	2
Fever, hemorrhagic	1	Hypertrophy of the heart	1
Fever, cerebral	1		

The estimated population of Panama is variously given as from 18,000 to 30,000. The lowest estimate was in use at the consul's office when I arrived and has been continued until now. I believe that 20,000 is nearer the true number and will use that figure in the future.

Mortality during month of April, 1904.

Assistant Surgeon Pierce reports, May 2, through Surgeon Perry at Colon, as follows:

Deaths from all causes during the month of April, 1904.

Bronchitis	1	Liver disease	1
Beriberi	5	Malarial cachexia	2
Cancer	1	Old age	1
Colic	1	Phthisis	3
Dropsy	4	Pneumonia	4
Debility	1	Paralysis	1
Distress	1	Parturition	2
Dysentery	6	Syphilis	1
Fever	8	Stillborn	6
Cerebral	1	Tuberculosis	5
Hæmorrhagic	1	Unknown	2
Pernicious	1	Wounds	1
Hernia, strangulated	1	Whooping cough	1
Hypertrophy heart	1		

Total number of deaths during the month, 63. The estimated population of Panama varies from 18,000 to 30,000. Heretofore I have used the smallest number in making calculations of death rates, but in the future will use 20,000 as the basis, which I believe, after much observation, represents the true population. Using this as the population the rate for April will be 37.80 per thousand.

PERU.

Report from Callao—Examination of rats on steamships Limari and Loa—Plague reported on Limari.

Assistant Surgeon Lloyd reports, April 18 and 25, as follows:

On the steamship *Limari*, the vessel on which I took passage (from Puna, near Guayaquil) to this port, I found rats dying in the hold. I examined 2 of these rats—1 dead when found, the other dying. They

were covered with fleas. Smears made from the spleens of these animals, stained with carbolthyonin, showed organisms morphologically identical with *B. pestis*, in large numbers. I made cultures and hope to obtain confirmation.

There happened to be on board a member of the faculty of medicine at Lima. I invited him to examine the smears. He agrees with me that the morphology is identical and assures me that I will be given every opportunity to determine whether or not my cultures contain *B. pestis*. This gentleman is Doctor Rodriguez, and he has reported the matter to the proper authorities. At the request of the master I am disinfecting the vessel. There has been no illness of the personnel.

Plague began to be noticed in Pacasmayo about May, 1903, but was not recognized as plague. It was officially announced the following August. About this time the rats, which had been dying in great numbers, became panic-stricken and fled. Some of them reached San Pedro, six miles distant, and in October or earlier cases occurred in San Pedro. If Pacasmayo is free from plague now—and I think it may be—it is chiefly because there are practically no rats left.

About one year ago rats died on the steamship *Loa*, a sister ship of the *Limari*. This kept up for a month until there were none left. Both these vessels belong to the Company of South American Steamships (Chilean).

Rats are now dying in Lima. The information contained in this report is obtained from sources which I consider absolutely reliable.

April 25, 1904.—Explaining my letter of April 18, concerning the rats examined on the steamship *Limari*, I have the honor to state that I boarded her in quarantine at Puna, she being refused entrance at Guayaquil. If her rats were infected (and they probably were—I have not yet finished the examination) she obtained this infection somewhere between Valparaiso and Payta. She probably had several chances of becoming infected, as plague is present in several Chilean ports, as well as Callao and Lima. It is reported here that a case of plague has occurred on the *Limari* since her departure for the South. I do not know if this is true.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Reports from Manila—Quarantinable diseases—Cholera disappearing from the islands—Disinfection of vessels.

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, April 15, as follows:

During the week ended April 9, 1904, the quarantinable diseases reported in Manila were as follows:

	Cases.	Deaths.
Cholera.....	0	0
Smallpox.....	2	2
Plague.....	3	2

There has been no report received of any cases of cholera occurring in the provinces. With the exception of an occasional isolated case, it is believed that the cholera has practically disappeared from the islands. The long-continued dry weather has no doubt been an important factor in its final disappearance. The history of cholera in the